

Message Text

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53

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 OMB-01 AF-10

CCO-00 DRC-01 /121 W

----- 046557

O R 221102Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1246

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 354

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, XF

SUBJ: MRS. MEIR ADDRESS KNESSET ON DISENGAGEMENT

AGREEMENT

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

1. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY SUMMARY OF MAIN POINTS CONTAINED IN PRIMIN'S JAN 22 ADDRESS TO KNESSET ON DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT, WHICH BEGAN AT 11 AM LOCAL TIME. SPEECH OPENED GOI ACCEPTANCE OF OCT 22 UNSC CEASEFIRE RESOLUTION, AND SUMMARY OF MAIN POINTS CONTAINED IN JAN 18 DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT.

2. ISRAEL AND EGYPT HAVE DEFINED DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT AS FIRST STEP TOWARD FINAL, JUST AND DURABLE PEACE. HWILE SEVERAL EGYPTIAN LEADERS HAVE MADE DISTURBING STATEMENTS IN UNCLASSIFIED

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CONNECTION WITH DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT, APPARENTLY FOR

PUBLIC CONSUMPTION IN ARAB COUNTRIES AND ESPECIALLY FOR RULERS OF EXTREMIST ARAB STATES, STATEMENTS BY GOE AUTHORIZED SPOKESMAN SHOW THAT EGYPT INTENDS TO START CLEARING SUEZ CANAL AND TO WORK FOR REBUILDING ABANDONED TOWNS AND RESTORATION OF NORMAL CIVILIAN LIFE IN CANAL AREA. IF THESE AIMS ARE ACHIEVED, IT WILL BE HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT TURNING POINT IN DEVELOPMENT OF REGION AWAY FROM WAR IN DIRECTION OF PEACE.

3. WITHOUT EGYPT'S NEGATIVE BALANCE SHEET IN OCTOBER WAR, IT IS VERY DOUBTFUL WHETHER EGYPT WOULD HAVE CONSENTED TO OCT. 22 CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT, PARTICIPATION IN GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE, AND CURRENT DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT, ISRAEL DID NOT SIGN DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT BECAUSE OF MILITARY INFERIORITY OR MILITARY NECESSITY, BUT RATHER WITH OBJECT OF ADVANCING TOWARD PERMANENT PEACE SETTLEMENT AND PREVENTING RENEWAL OF WAR. ALTERNATIVE TO THIS AGREEMENT IS NOTHING BUT RENEWAL OF WAR.

4. DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT IS FRUIT OF ISRAEL VICTORY IN WAR, BUT ALSO REFLECTS EGYPT'S ACHIEVEMENT DURING FIRST DAYS.

5. ISRAEL'S MILITARY STRATEGIC POSITION ALONG NEW LINE WILL BE FIRM. IDF WILL REMAIN DEPLOYED IN ALL THE STRENGTH REQUIRED, PREPARED FOR ANY EVENTUALITY. DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT WILL ENABLE RELEASE OF SOME OF RESERVES, IN STAGES.

6. U.S., UNDER PRESIDENT'S LEADERSHIP AND WITH SUPPORT OF CONGRESS, HAS MAINTAINED POLICY OF ENCOURAGEING NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN PARTIES, WHILE OBSERVING IN PRACTICE THE PRINCIPLE OF STRENGTHENING ISRAEL. " I SHOULD LIKE TO NOTE, WITH APPRECIATION, ROLE PLAYED BY U.S. IN ACHIEVEMENT OF THIS AGREEMENT." THE SECRETARY GAVE THE MATTER HIS PERSONAL UNTIRING ATTENTION. IT IS HIGHLY IMPORTANT THAT HE WON TRUST AND COOPERATION OF EGYPT AS COMPARED TO OTHER INSTANCES WHERE THOSE WHO OFFERED THEIR GOOD OFFICES ATTEMPTED TO ADVANCE POSITIONS OF THEIR OWN, U.S. WAS CAREFUL TO EXTEND ITS GOOD OFFICES IN POSITIVE AND CLASSIC MEANING OF TERM. AS LONG AS TRUST BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT STILL REMAIN ON SO NARROW A BASIS, INVOLVEMENT OF FRIENDLY COUNTRIES SUCH AS U. S. COULD PROVE INVALUABLE IN PROMOTION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PARTIES AND CONTINUING OBSERVANCE OF UNCLASSIFIED

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THE SETTLEMENTS.

7. BEST AND TRUEST GUARANTEE FOR MAINTENANCE OF DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT IS ROOTED IN VITAL INTEREST OF BOTH PARTIES. ISRAEL DID ITS BEST TO EXHAUST ALL POSSIBILITIES OF NEGOTIATION, AND AGREEMENT ACHIEVED IS PREFERABLE TO OTHER ALTERNATIVES AND POSSIBILITIES. INsofar AS IT DEPENDS ON ISRAEL, WE REGARD SEPARATION OF FORCES AS ACHIEVEMENT WHICH FACILITATES SUITABLE

ATMOSPHERE FOR SPEEDING UP PROSPECTS OF PEACE. ISRAEL'S POSITION FROM START HAS BEEN THAT SEPARATION OF FORCES IS NOT ULTIMATE GOAL, AND THAT ISRAEL IS PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE WITH EGYPT ON A DURABLE PEACE WITHIN DEFENSIBLE BORDERS.

8. ISRAEL WAS NOT REQUIRED TO MAKE, NOR WOULD IT UNDERTAKE, ANY COMMITMENTS BEYOND STABILIZATION OF CEASEFIRE AND SEPARATION OF FORCES.

9. THERE HAS BEEN NO PROGRESS IN CONTACTS WITH SYRIA. GOI REITERATES ITS POSITION NOT TO DISCUSS SEPARATION OF FORCES WITH SYRIA BEFORE RECEIVING LIST OF ISRAELI POW'S. SYRIAN REFUSAL TO PROVIDE LIST OR ALLOW ICRC VISITATION IS " UNSURPASSED IN ITS BRUTALITY."

10. IF KNESSET APPROVES DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT, IMPLEMENTATION WILL BEGIN JAN 25.
KEATING

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To: STATE
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